



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2025 | THANKSGIVING



Letter from the Superintendent's Office

As we move into December, I'm reminded of how much service and giving shape our district. This season brings those values into focus, and I am grateful for the many ways our students and staff care for one another every day. Whether it's a school project or performance, a community-wide activity, or small acts of kindness, we all show what it means to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

Our work goes far beyond teaching and learning in the Ellsworth School Department. We are trying to build a place where people support and lift each other up.

If we all can carry that spirit with us this month - focusing on generosity, teamwork, and helping one another - I know we will enter the new year even stronger. The short days of December invite us to slow down and reflect, yet they also remind us that brighter days are ahead. Soon the light will return, bringing new chances to grow, learn, create, and be inspired together.

I wish each of you a wonderful Holiday season filled with rest, connection, and moments of joy. I hope you find time to make memories as well as recharge with the people who matter most to you. May the weeks ahead bring warmth, joy, and hope, and give us all a fresh start as we head into the new year.



My very best,

Nicole H. Chan

Asst. Superintendent of Schools

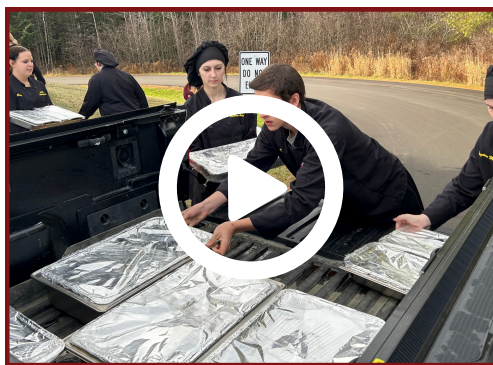


There's a LOT cooking in the kitchen at HCTC!

HCTC's Culinary Arts students proved that food is more than just recipes this month – serving up a Thanksgiving feast with the VFW while sharpening the skills that prepare them for any kitchen, anywhere.

This month, HCTC's Culinary Arts students partnered with Ellsworth's VFW Post 109 to prepare a full Thanksgiving feast for local veterans and seniors. Together, they cooked 12 turkeys, 100 pounds of potatoes, 80 pounds of squash, seven pans of stuffing, four gallons of gravy, and 32 pies — all served with a side of gratitude and community connection.

The event wasn't just about food; it was about building bridges across generations. Students gained the experience of cooking for a large crowd while also learning the deeper meaning of service — how a shared meal can bring comfort, joy, and community pride.



CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR STUDENTS ON THE NEWS!



And while it might look like our students are up to their same old tricks — welcoming the community weekly at the Brookside Restaurant, preparing meals for school events, and competing at SkillsUSA — behind the scenes, Ms. Frost is pushing them further. Students get comfortable with every corner of the kitchen in her class; and they are now earning math, language, and art credits towards graduation requirements, and they can even gain college credits, ServeSafe certifications, and skills that they can use any kitchen, anywhere!

Students like seniors Anthony Kimball and Alison Seeds show how far the program reaches: from SkillsUSA medals to gaining real-world work experience, they're proof that HCTC Culinary Arts blends passion with professionalism and sets students up to become chefs. As Kimball puts it, "Food can go a long way — whether you're helping out homeless people or just making someone's day."

Head to our website for more quotes from Anthony, Alison, and to learn more about what's going on behind the scenes in Ms. Frost's kitchen!

READ MORE



GIVING



HCTC Students continue giving back this Thanksgiving!

Our Criminal Justice program was also out and about this Thanksgiving season helping to feed those in need in the community!

We partnered with the Hancock County Sheriff's Charities this year and we delivered ALL of the Thanksgiving meals that they collected! With help from our students Ryan Gross, Karly Chang and Kylee Sanborn, Loaves and Fishes, the YMCA, and the Moore Center – the Hancock County Sheriff's Department helped feed over 140 local families this Thanksgiving! We feel so honored to be a part of such an awesome tradition.



National Technical Honors Society helps fill up local food pantry!



A few more of our students were spearheading food drives and delivering the goods to locals around Thanksgiving, too!

Our National Technical Honors Society Chapter hosted their very own food drive for Ellsworth's Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry! Items like canned goods, cranberry sauce, turkeys, gravy and more were donated right at Hancock County Technical Center. After one week of collections, our students filled a whole trunk and brought it over to Loaves and Fishes, and they helped distribute it to families in need in time for Thanksgiving!

A huge thanks goes out to our NTHS team as well as all of our students and staff members who generously donated to help our community.

GIVING

“Hoodies for Homeless” brings in thousands!



Shoutout to our Eagles wrestling squad for another successful Hoodies for Homeless drive in downtown Ellsworth!

In just our second year of the fundraiser, we tripled - yes, **TRIPLED** - our donations from 2024, and that's all thanks to the community we're apart of.

Our kids collected \$3,114 and tons of hoodies, hats, coats, socks, and all sorts of winter clothing! All of the donations went directly to the Emmaus Homeless Shelter downtown.

We are so grateful for everyone who gave and can't wait to beat this total next year! Click the photo to see more!

Still in the giving spirit? You can make a difference in the community this winter!

At Ellsworth High School, we have a few opportunities to give back around the holidays and all winter long. First, we are collecting new or gently used winter coats, hats, and gloves to keep our students warm this season – and we'll be doing so until spring. Drop donations at the High School Main Office during school hours.

Our Christmas Toy Drive is taking place in the main lobby until December 18! Drop off new stuffed animals, toys, and stocking stuffers in the wrapped boxes in the main lobby to benefit local families with the Emmaus Center! Each grade, staff, and the community has its own box, and every donation counts toward a class competition!

Click each flyer for more info about both of these efforts on our Facebook page!



Thankful

KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Our Kindergarten and Pre-K kiddos had a couple of AWESOME field trips this past month!

Our Kindergarten team had an awesome time with the Ellsworth Fire Department, getting to climb aboard the trucks, explore some of the equipment, and ask our local heroes some big questions!

All four of our Pre-K classes got to explore some trucks, too! Shoutout to our friends at E.L. Shea for delivering some fun – our kids got to climb aboard a dump truck and a big excavator right here at EEMS! We are SO thankful for our amazing local partners for helping create an unforgettable day for our kiddos!



Thank you to all who supported our girls basketball team!

Our girls basketball program hosted their annual bake sale fundraiser outside of Friends and Family Market ahead of Thanksgiving!

We can't thank our awesome community enough for coming by and loading up on some desserts for the holidays while supporting our girls as they prepare for another successful season.

This year, we raised almost \$3000 in the three days before Thanksgiving – and we couldn't have done it without all of you!





Your School Garden of the Month is right here in Ellsworth!!

We are so proud to announce that the EEMS School Garden has officially been named School Garden of the Month by the Maine School Garden Network!



Our garden is a terrific resource for our students and our school. From learning activities to providing some healthy snacks for our kids – we do it all! Our thriving green space is a centerpiece for hands-on learning while promoting healthy living and community connection! Students not only grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers, but also take part in cool hands-on experiences like using our apple press to make fresh cider – a favorite fall tradition that brings science, nutrition, and fun together in one outdoor activity! Sometimes, we'll even take some of our crops to the Tasting Table during Harvest of the Month!

Over the years we've added an outdoor classroom, compost areas, perimeter trails for more nature learning, our apple press, pollinator gardens, and so much more! We also spend time connecting our students to the Ellsworth Community Garden and local farms – showing them firsthand how it all works!



Shoutout to Mrs. Baldwin, our fearless garden leader, and to all the students, staff, and volunteers in our community that make our space BLOOM in more ways than one! Thank you ALL for helping us create one of the best outdoor learning spaces in the state!

Read more about our outdoor classroom – and why the Maine School Garden Network chose us as their Garden of the Month!

READ MORE



THE STUDENT HUB

DOUBLE THE TASTINGS – DOUBLE THE FUN!

*We had two awesome Tasting
Tables at EEMS this month!*



First, we gave a huge thumbs up to some locally made fish tots! Whipped up by Graffam Brothers Seafood in Rockland, the tots came to us through the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association and their efforts to get more local seafood in schools. With locally caught flounder, Maine potatoes, and carrots, these got rave reviews from our students—some even came running back for three or four samples! Something tells us we may see them on the menu soon...

Thanks to the MCFA and our wonderful kitchen staff for bringing this to our schools – and to all our kids who were brave enough to try something new!!

Then, it was onto our Harvest of the Month! After some applesauce and pumpkin pie last month, we turned the page to some Brassicas! The Ellsworth Garden Club provided some awesome kale, and our Director of Nutrition Mr. Berry cheffed up some awesome crispy kale with salt, pepper, and garlic – simple as that!

This was yet another smash hit with our students! We LOVE serving meals that nourish our kids, celebrate Maine's farmers and fishermen, and spark curiosity in every bite.

Thank you to everyone who had a part in serving up smiles in our cafeteria this month!



THE STUDENT HUB

Congrats to our HCTC Beacon Award Winner for Quarter 1!



Shout out to Alison Seeds, winner of HCTC's Beacon Award for Quarter 1!

Ali, a senior Culinary Arts student, brings an "all in" attitude to everything she does — from mentoring first-year students to tackling big kitchen projects with a smile. Her positive energy, teamwork, and love for the craft make her a true standout.

We're lucky to have her here at HCTC and in our kitchen! Congratulations Ali - you are our Student of the Quarter! [Read more on our website!](#)

HONORING the arts



This month, we celebrated 22 new inductees into our National Art Honors Society, our Tri-M Music Society, and the International Thespian Society – a tremendous showcase of the strength of our Visual and Performing Arts programs here at Ellsworth High School!



Head to our website for the full list of our newest members and for more information!!

READ MORE



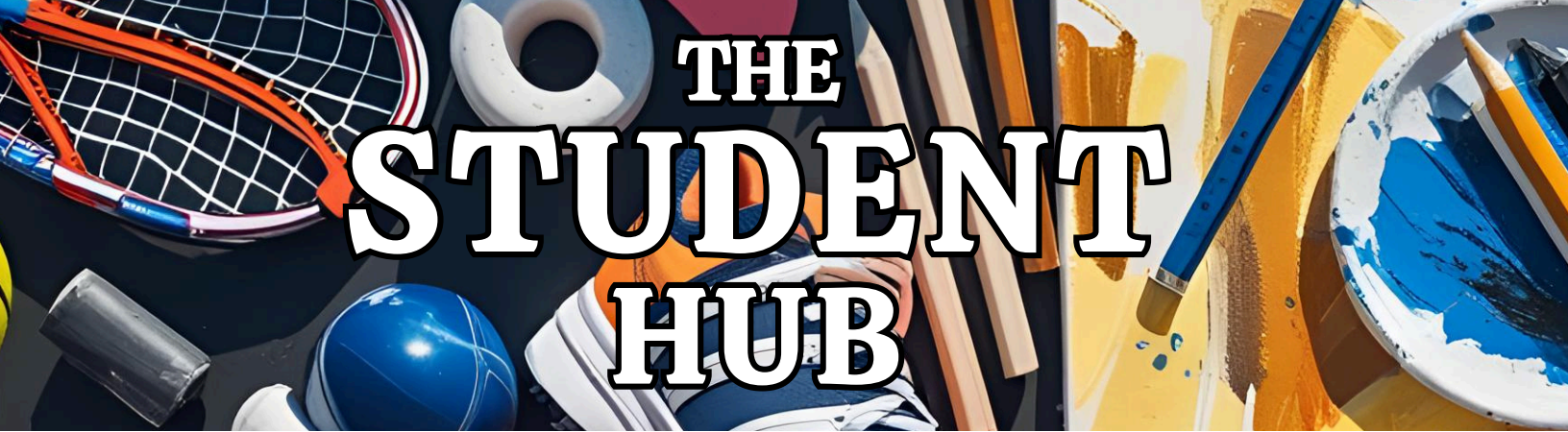
... AND SCIENCE!

Our Science National Honor Society group took their annual trip to the University of Maine this month, too!

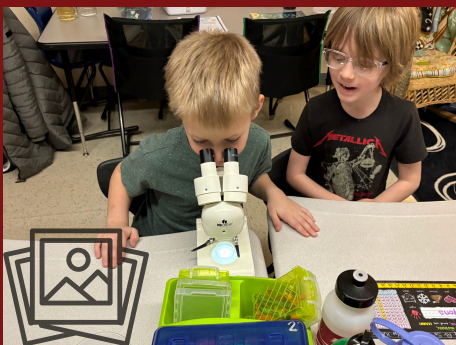
Our students and staff got the full tour and explored the Advanced Structures and Composite Center, the FASTR Lab, and the Process Development Center!

It's one of our favorite trips each year – thank you to the University of Maine for an awesome experience!





THE STUDENT HUB



Tiny Scientists, BIG Discoveries!

First graders welcomed Dr. Elisabeth Marnik from MDI Biological Laboratory for a hands-on science adventure. With microscopes and petri dishes, students explored regeneration science and set up experiments with California blackworms.

A HUGE thank-you to Dr. M & MDI Bio Lab for inspiring our youngest scientists!

At EHS, Mrs. Falabella's AP & Gen Bio students have been having a blast with the spectrophotometer!

This month, students designed their own experiments to study how certain enzymes function and react!



EHS was well represented at the PVC Leadership Summit this month! Sponsored by The First National Bank and featuring Rob Miller of Proactive Coaching, the summit brought together student-athletes from across the Penobscot Valley Conference to strengthen leadership skills and inspire positive change.

Representing Ellsworth at the summit were: Dawson Curtis, Jackson Barry, Noah Frost, Cooper Mitchell, Whitney Jordan, Elizabeth Boles, Lily Alley, Jadyn Bell, and Coach Mark Ensworth.

A new take on Hand Turkeys!

Both Mrs. McDougall's 2D Design and Digital Art classes brought their own flair to this festive tradition. We've got a whole flock of creativity to share — check out their work!

SEE MORE



THE STUDENT HUB

EHS SCHOLARS HONORED BY VFW

Ellsworth High School proudly celebrated two winners of the Voice of Democracy scholarship, awarded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Congratulations to Sage Alvelo, 1st place, *and* Chase Lawrence, 2nd place!

Thank you to Perry Mattson and Commander Richard Saunders of Ellsworth VFW Post 109 for presenting the awards, which included certificates, medals, and scholarships. Best of luck to Sage – he will advance to District-level judging!

Find more photos on our Facebook page! Congratulations to both of you – your hard work makes it a well-deserved honor!!



Accepted – on the Spot!

Congratulations to Alexis Smith, Dawson Curtis, Jadyn Bell, Jazzlyn Smith, Luke Radel, Noelle Towne, Samantha Boddy, and Valedah Vaillancourt!

These eight Eagles received their official admission to Husson University during our "Husson-On-The-Spot" event in Guidance!

Thanks to Don Grover from Undergraduate Admissions who met with applicants and delivered decisions face-to-face—and we're thrilled to celebrate these newly accepted students!

Check out all of the photos on our Facebook page!



IT'S SHOWTIME!!

It's Musical Season in Ellsworth! Both our *EMS Drama Club* and the *Ellsworth High School Theater of the Mad Jesters* opened the curtain this month and put on terrific performances!

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!



Starting Thanksgiving weekend, the Mad Jesters put on a terrific performance of 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!'

Our wonderful cast brings some of the most beloved comic-strip characters to life in a terrific performance that has a wonderful message of acceptance while leaving the audience laughing quite a few times throughout the show!

From Lucy's psychiatry office, to Snoopy taking on the Red Baron, and every "Good Grief" that echoes through the theater, the production was an incredible showing of all the talent we have on our Mad Jester's team and in the VPA Program! Congratulations to everyone involved on putting together an awesome show!

IT'S SHOWTIME!!



Across the street, the EMS Drama Club brought the classic story of *Annie* to life with a heartfelt and energetic performance of *Annie Jr.*!

From the orphanage run by the hilariously nasty Ms. Hannigan, to Annie's journey into the mansion of billionaire Mr. Warbucks, the show delivered laughter, emotion, and plenty of memorable moments. First-time performers, including Annie herself, and seasoned veterans alike shined on stage, supported by dedicated staff and a hard-working stage crew who helped make the production possible.

It was a wonderful showcase of talent, teamwork, and joy from our EMS Drama program — Shout out to everyone who had a hand in putting on such a tremendous show!

Thanks to everyone involved in BOTH our amazing musicals – we are SO proud of the work you do!

Congrats to our November “High Five Award” winners!!

Let's give a big “High Five” to Amanda Violette, Amy VanDorn, and Hope High! These three were honored at our November board meeting with another round of High Five Award recognitions this year.

These staff members were chosen for their extraordinary dedication, their above-and-beyond compassion, and the impact they've had and continue to have on our students and community. Read more about their stories and don't forget to submit your nomination! >>>

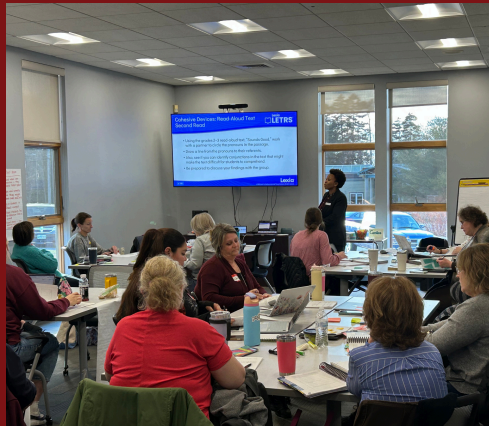


Round Two of PD – This Time with a Regional Twist!

After our first district-wide professional development day in October, our staff all came together once again the week before Thanksgiving!

We even had a great group of Physical Education and Health teachers from all over the state flock to Mr. Norwood's gym for a regional professional development opportunity hosted right here in Ellsworth! We went over AI use in Phys-Ed, and then showed educators from around Maine our awesome mountain biking unit!

A huge thank you to every member of our staff – once again your dedication and commitment to our schools shows, and it makes all the difference!!



The Bulletin Board

Our Athletics Page has a new home - but still the same goods!

You can find schedules, registration, coaches contacts, live streams, spiritwear and anything you'll ever need related to EHS Athletics!

Click the picture to check it out - and be sure to save it as a bookmark for the future! Go Eagles!



The school year is already $\frac{1}{4}$ through! Click the image to the right to check out our Ellsworth High School Honor Roll from Quarter 1! ->

1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Cell Phone Survey coming soon!

Be on the lookout for a district-wide survey coming soon to staff, students, and families. In accordance with Maine's new law requiring school boards to set policies on cell phone use, we'll be asking for your input to help shape how these rules are put into practice in our schools!



CLICK HERE TO READ
OUR DECEMBER MONTHLY
ATTENDANCE NEWSLETTER!



Lock in your memories 📷 - Order your EHS Yearbook today!

Theme: *Scrapbook*

Where: Room 214 (cash or check) or online

[\[Click Here for online order\]](#)

Price: \$75

SENIOR PICS ARE DUE BY DEC. 1!

Questions? Email Mr. Hiatt →

jhiatt@ellsworthschools.org

🏀 BASKETBALL SEASON IS FINALLY HERE!! OUR EAGLES TAKE THE COURT THIS WINTER LOOKING TO BOOK YET ANOTHER TRIP TO THE CROSS INSURANCE CENTER FOR THE MAINE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT!

BOTH OUR BOYS AND GIRLS TEAMS ARE POISED TO BE AMONG THE TOP TEAMS IN THE CLASS THIS YEAR - READ ABOUT EACH TEAM'S UPCOMING SEASON FROM THE ELLSWORTH AMERICAN HERE!! 🏀



DON'T FORGET -

Ugly Sweater Day is Dec. 19!
Let's try and get all of ESD in some funny, festive gear!





Want to work for an awesome department with great people?

Good news: **We're hiring!**
We've got open positions for several roles.

Click on our logo above to check out our employment page and find your best fit!

PARENT LINKS

 [District Calendar](#)

 [Infinite Campus](#)

 [Bus Schedules](#)

 [Lunch Menu \(EHS\)](#)

 [Lunch Menu \(EEMS\)](#)

 [Tech Help](#)



SPORTS LINKS

[EHS ATHLETICS](#)

[EEMS ACTIVITIES](#)

[MPA](#)

HELP!

Ellsworth School Department needs YOUR help!

We are looking to boost our storytelling and shine a light on all of the fun, positive things happening in our schools every day!

Know of a student, teacher, or anyone else who deserves a bit of spotlight? Fill out one of our "Good News, Ellsworth!" Submission forms and let us know about it!

 **GOOD NEWS, ELLSWORTH!** 

DECEMBER DATES

DEC. 10

EMS Winter Concert (held at EHS)

DEC. 11

EMS - Winter Concert Snow Date

DEC. 17

EHS Holiday Arts Festival -
Art Exhibit 5:30 PM, Concert 7 PM

DEC. 17 - 23

EEMS - School Spirit Week!

DEC. 23

District-wide - Early Dismissal

DEC. 24 - JAN. 4

No School - Holiday Break

 **We'll see you in 2026!!** 



Ellsworth School Dept.

Superintendent:
Amy Boles

Asst.
Superintendent:
Nicole Chan

Central Office:
207-664-7100



Ellsworth High School

Principal:
Dan Clifford

Asst.
Principal:
Rebecca Wright

Main Office:
207-667-4722



**Ellsworth Elementary/
Middle School**

Principal:
April Clifford

Asst.
Principal:
V. Alvelo
M. Wibberly
L. Corson

Main Office:
207-667-6241

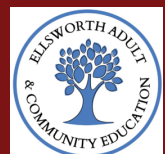


**Hancock County Tech.
Center**

Director:
Bill Tracy

Administrative
Asst.
Elizabeth
Connors

Main Office:
207-667-9729



**Ellsworth Adult
Education**

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Administrative
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